RESOLUTION NO. 91-187


WHEREAS, in the interest of the citizens of St. Johns County, an Aquatic Preserve Committee (the "Committee") was established by the St. Johns County Commission (the "Commission") for the purpose of analyzing the designation of an "Aquatic Preserve" and the need to halt the decline of the water quality of the St. Johns River within St. Johns County; and

WHEREAS, the Committee, has for the past seven months researched, interviewed, discovered, and analyzed reports from Florida State regulatory agencies, including, but not limited to, the Department of Natural Resources, the Florida Fish and Game Commission, the Department of Environmental Regulation, the St. Johns River Water Management District, the Army Corps of Engineers, and the Florida Department of Transportation; and

WHEREAS, the Commission acknowledges that the St. Johns River and its tributaries and basin is one of Florida's great natural resources and deserves a high level of protection; and

WHEREAS, there is ample evidence as determined by the Committee that progressive deterioration of water quality in the lower St. Johns River and its tributaries in adjacent county's is taking place and will expand over the next decade as the population it serves grows unless there is joint action by state, regional and basin authorities to prevent same; and

WHEREAS, the Commission seeks to avoid deterioration of the river's water quality by the rigorous application of the anti-degradation policies and standards of the State of Florida to protect Florida surface waters.
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA:

Section 1. The entire lower basin (Ocean to Oklawaha
River) of the St. Johns River should be protected by a
standing advisory committee to the Secretary of the
Department of Environmental Regulation whose membership is
drawn equally from the six counties through which it
passes. Said Committee shall investigate, formulate, and
propose with the various regulatory agencies immediate
action under the present existing statutory guidelines to
correct deteriorative water quality and protect the
natural resource of the St. Johns River. The advisory
committee should be formed with one member in good
standing of each of the six County Commissions in the
basin area plus one participating citizen of each county
demonstrating the knowledge and interest in pursuing the
protection and maintenance of water quality.
Additionally, this Lower St. Johns River Basin Advisory
Committee should consist of the Executive Director of N.E.
Florida Regional Planning Counsel, St. Johns River Water
Management District, and representatives of the Department
of Natural Resources, The Florida Fish and Game
Commission, and The Department of Environmental Regulation
who preferably live in the St. Johns Basin Area and have
first hand knowledge of the Lower St. Johns River Basin.
The Commission shall endeavor to immediately pursue the
establishment of said advisory committee with the six
counties involved and direct its efforts and findings to
the Department of Environmental Regulation and the
Governor of the State of Florida.

Section 2. Said St. Johns River Lower Basin Committee and
the County of St. Johns should, thereafter, where
economically feasible, support, initiate, control and
coordinate the regulatory authorities to pursue active
anti-degradation from any sources of the St. Johns Lower
Basin. Additionally, this Commission and its supportive counties shall direct the Department of Environmental Regulation and the St. Johns River Water Management District to immediately analyze all point source and nonpoint source discharges to the lower St. Johns area basin on a regular basis and to further coordinate with the Department of Natural Resources the duties relegated to their regional and state authority to control and manage said discharges.

Section 3. In an effort to further facilitate and upgrade water quality, the six county advisory committee and the Commission shall request from the Secretary of the Department of Environmental Regulation a specific plan for coordination of all agencies with a uniform application of laws and rules applicable to all counties in the basin area. It is the intent of the Commission to further enhance coordination, cooperation, and communication, and, to coordinate their activities of enforcement and jurisdictional review of existing regulations with all state and regional agencies.

Section 4. The Commission and its advisory committee for the "Aquatic Preserve" has found it unnecessary at this time to further pursue the designation of an "Aquatic Preserve" but alternatively recognizes the high need for supporting more effective and basin wide correction of the degradation in surface waters which is taking place. However, in conjunction with the State and County's comprehensive plan, the Commission hereby directs the County Administrator to study, analyze, and report on ways in which St. Johns County ordinances may coordinate with existing Department of Natural Resources, Department of Environmental Regulation, St. Johns River Water Management District and U.S. Corp. of Engineers any and all permitting activities within the lower St. Johns area basin so as to minimize damage to grass beds. Similarly,
the County Administrator would be asked to work with these
same agencies to cause bulkheads to be located at or above
high water lines and to control the run off of herbicides,
pesticides and nutrients from surfaces behind such
bulkheads so that the first 1/2" of rainfall is retained
before it enters the surface waters within St. Johns
County jurisdiction.
Section 5. Lastly, and in conjunction with the mandate of
higher water quality for the St. Johns River, the
Commission will continue to urge, cooperate with and
support the state and regional regulatory authorities in
their vigorous application and enforcement of existing
state statutes. Accordingly, the Commission shall
initiate action to appoint the advisory committee as
recommended herein to present an annual "Florida Water
Quality Assessment" for the St. Johns River Basin within
St. Johns County to the St. Johns County Commission.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners of
St. Johns County, Florida, this 26th day of November, 1991.

ATTEST: CARL "BUD" MARKEL, CLERK BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: Deputy Clerk

Aquatic Preserve Committee

Member
Baron Bartlett
David Tillis
Tom Beal
Ben Williams
John Stump
Pinkham Pacetti
Joe Tuttle

Sponsor
Commissioner Balsavage
Commissioner Brinkhoff
Commissioner Herold
Commissioner Bailey
Commissioner Maguire
Commissioner Roberts
Commissioner Floyd

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